



A delegate walking toward the Atlantic during the CSO's annual meeting last October in Charleston, SC.



## Kristen Fletcher, Executive Director, Suggests Better Ways for the Navy to Collaborate With Coastal States



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**IN THE SPOTLIGHT** for this issue of *Currents* is Kristen Fletcher, Executive Director of the Coastal States Organization (CSO). CSO was established in 1970 to represent the governors of the nation's 35 coastal states, commonwealths and territories on legislative and policy issues relating to the sound management of coastal, Great Lakes and ocean resources.

This is the sixth in a series of interviews with representatives of environmental non-governmental organizations (NGO) intended to broaden our understanding of the NGO community and to enhance Navy-NGO environmental cooperation and partnerships.

This interview was conducted on 2 April 2010 in CSO's Washington, D.C. offices by Tracey Moriarty, Director of Environmental Outreach for the Chief of Naval Operations Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, and Bruce McCaffrey, Managing Editor, *Currents*.

### Coastal management is our focus.

**CURRENTS:** Thanks for taking the time to speak with us today. Can we start with a little bit about your own background?



**KRISTEN FLETCHER:** Sure. As Executive Director, I'm responsible for advancing CSO's mission by advocating for the shared state interests. We represent the interests of the governors of coastal states and territories before federal agencies and Congress, to support federal policy goals and objectives of CSO. Right now I'm working toward reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), representing state interests in the development of a National Ocean Policy and Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Framework, and developing legislative efforts toward adapting to climate change.

Before joining CSO, I directed the Marine Affairs Institute and Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program at Roger Williams University where I advised university researchers, government agencies, and other constituents on ocean and coastal law issues as well as directing research and outreach projects.



**CURRENTS:** Great. Can you give us an overview of CSO as you see it and what your objectives are as an organization?

**FLETCHER:** Sure, it's a great organization. We were a spinoff of the National Governors Association (NGA). NGA represents the governors of the entire country, inland states included. In 1970, it was decided that it would be helpful to have a separate organization to focus on ocean and coastal issues. So CSO was formed. We're celebrating 40 years of service this year. Coastal management is our focus—the overarching context in which we work. The governors name delegates to CSO and we work directly with those delegates. These tend to be the directors of the coastal management programs in their respective states or secretaries of state resource agencies.

Our priorities are set by our executive committee. Right now, reauthorization of the CZMA is a primary one. Another priority that we've identified for 2010—which I'm sure will be continuing into the future—is climate change adaptation. We're focused on how coastal communities can adapt through engineered solutions as well as natural solutions. That was talked about yesterday at the Navy Environmental Forum. (For more insights into the environmental forum

sponsored by the Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Readiness Division, see our sidebar entitled, "Partners for the Planet" Brings Key Stakeholders Together for Environmental Forum). Climate change adaptation is an important focus for us in terms of legislation. Also the CZMA is flexible enough so the coastal programs in the states can do climate change adaptation through the current statute, which is really helpful.

The third priority for us right now is renewable energy, and it's a huge push throughout the country, whether it's wave, wind or tidal. When some of these initial applications and ideas were being brought forward, they represented new uses and new technologies and the states weren't really prepared. They didn't have the regulatory structure. They didn't have the siting processes set up. So we've been working with them to develop those.

We also work with groups called Regional Ocean Partnerships. Although the Great Lakes have been doing it for decades, in the last eight years or so, governors in other

## The Basics About Regional Ocean Partnerships

**POLLUTION, CLIMATE CHANGE** adaptation, resource depletion and conflicts between new and traditional uses are some of the challenges facing coastal states. Tackling these issues alone is clearly beyond the reach of any individual state. Multi-state, regional partnerships provide an efficient way for states to develop shared priorities and to take critical action on a broad variety of issues. Governors in six different regions have formed Regional Ocean Partnerships to address these issues on a regional level.

While the coastal and ocean challenges that face the nation are common to all regions, each partnership addresses them from different perspectives under diverse jurisdictional arrangements that reflect the unique character of the region. Their efforts involve non-governmental stakeholders, multiple agencies within each state, and multiple federal programs.



Although their methods and approaches may differ, Regional Ocean Partnerships have similar priorities, including habitat conservation and restoration, disaster planning and recovery, water quality improvement, support of critical research programs, and the need for MSP, which allows all of these issues to be dealt with comprehensively.

There are currently six Regional Ocean Partnerships. The president's framework for MSP includes the formation of three more partnerships, in the Caribbean, the Pacific, and Alaska.

regions have come together and said, “We want to focus regionally on some of these issues.” For example, a lot of the water quality issues are very similar so the question is, “How can we work as a region to address water quality?” Now there are six Regional Ocean Partnerships across the country. (For more insights, see our sidebar entitled “The Basics About Regional Ocean Partnerships”).

**CURRENTS:** And they primarily focus on water quality?

**FLETCHER:** That’s one of the issues. Habitat protection and restoration is important as is climate change. They’ve all identified their own priorities. In New England, for example, energy is a priority which is primarily a result of the push for wind farms.

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“adaptation” because they see the  
whole country being sea-walled.

**CURRENTS:** CZMA reauthorization, climate change, regional ocean partnerships and alternative energy. When you talk climate change adaptation, what kinds of things are you talking about?

**FLETCHER:** Coastal states and communities are experiencing climate change now so we’re going to have to learn how to adapt to it. There was a decision made by the delegates in the last couple of years to focus on adaptation instead of mitigation. That’s where we felt we could make the biggest impact.

A really good example of adaptation is San Francisco Bay. It’s unlikely that the San Francisco airport will be moved and it’s right on the water. So how are we going to protect that airport along with the natural systems there? I loved The Nature Conservancy presentation during the Environmental Forum because Bob Barnes covered this issue so well. How can we enhance those natural systems to help that area, to help the bay adapt while also understanding that we’ve got to use some engineered solutions around the airport? Some people fear the phrase “adaptation” because they see the whole country being sea-walled. That’s not our perspective. Adaptation involves pulling together a lot of information and understanding how this place can adapt both through infrastructure and natural habitat.

**CURRENTS:** So you talked about engineered solutions and enhancing natural systems. Would your organization

try to provide your member states with some options on how to do that?

**FLETCHER:** We’ve found from a two-year survey of the states that one of their biggest needs is for information and data. And a more coordinated effort for getting that information. So one of our main functions is to provide information and access to what other states are doing



Cape Cod.

regarding adaptation. That’s one of the easiest and most useful things we can do—provide insights into what’s going on in other states to the states themselves and the other NGOs or federal agencies who might request that information. We can help put our member states in touch with others who are either facing the same challenges or have come up with a solution.

The other role that we play is coordination here in D.C. If there’s a federal agency or another NGO that needs information, we can connect them with the right people or create some kind of a forum where information, solutions and options can be exchanged. We try to provide them with on-the-ground solutions that are progressive and innovative and helpful.

**CURRENTS:** On-the-ground solutions.

**FLETCHER:** Yes. We tend to be very practical in our focus. The CSO staff is small—there are only four of us. So we want to provide our member states with the solutions



themselves or connect them with someone who has the solutions. Things are coming at them very fast, especially with renewable energy. So the quicker we can make these connections for them and provide solutions that they can use in their daily work, the better off they're going to be.

And then there's Capitol Hill where we do a number of briefings throughout the year to a variety of constituencies. We did a briefing last year on our proposed revisions to the CZMA—something we were able to get the CSO membership to agree to. We also provided some background briefs on climate change and renewable energy. About two weeks ago, we worked with the NGA to prepare and deliver a briefing here in the Hall of States. We focused on our members, the NGA members and the other associations in the building. We brought somebody over from the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to talk about the Obama Administration's priority of a national ocean policy and a Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) framework. (Note: CMSP is also known by some as



## These states know specifically what information they're missing and how the Navy might be able to fill those gaps.

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP).) We wanted to share detailed information with the other associations in this building. So once there's legislation proposed, we can enlist their help to push forward the national policy and planning framework.

**CURRENTS:** As you know there are a lot of Navy training ranges off the coasts of your member states. Would there be a benefit to having some of our folks speak at any of your forums?

**FLETCHER:** That would be great—especially if we could identify a specific issue for them to address. I think one of the priority issues is access to information. I know that a lot of information is classified but I suspect there is some

way we can increase our access to some of the information that the Navy is collecting.

At yesterday's Environmental Forum, I asked Mr. Schregardus (Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for the Environment Donald Schregardus) about the effort within the federal government to do a better job of coordinating the collection of information. That effort is just getting started. I think the states would like to be involved in that effort from the beginning. Our member states have a lot of good ideas on how that could go forward and what type of models they're already using and finding useful.

I loved the alternative energy discussions yesterday too. To have someone in the opening remarks discuss CMSP was

fantastic. Everybody in the room seemed aware of this effort. I think CMSP is being framed now like ecosystem-based management was ten years ago. People describe it differently, name it differently, and are not really sure what to do with it. But the states are already doing it. Rhode Island and Massachusetts have had this effort going for the past couple of years. Oregon has its territorial sea plan and of course, California is doing it as well. These four states are leading the way on CMSP/MSP. (For more on CMSP/MSP, see our sidebar entitled “The Basics About Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning.”) These states know specifically what information they’re missing and how the Navy might be able to fill those gaps. That would be very useful.

Our states are fellow stakeholders with the Navy—we’re fellow landowners. The state is a stakeholder to the Navy in terms of the Navy protecting them, but then the Navy is going to rely on the state as a stakeholder in terms of protecting that area and making sure that we’re ready for sea level rise and how we’re going to handle other changes.

**CURRENTS:** In discussions we’ve had, everyone says they want “data” but we have yet to be provided with a specific list of requirements.

**FLETCHER:** Each state has its own coastal management program which makes it difficult to develop a standard requirements list. Some states are going to have a much greater interest in some data (data about marine mammals, for example) than others. I think the Regional Ocean Partnerships might be the best way to develop a list that everyone could work with. You’ll probably get a better sense of what’s going on around the country from the regional ocean partnerships and how to prioritize data availability according to what will benefit the most states.

**CURRENTS:** Would you like to talk a little bit about CSO’s perspective on CMSP/MSP and what you folks are doing to promote that approach?

**FLETCHER:** CSO member states have developed a draft policy. We have not adopted it yet—there are still some question marks about what CMSP/MSP is and how it is defined. There are certain states that are very interested in it and consider what they’re doing already to be a form of marine spatial planning. Other states haven’t embraced it in the same way. I think that President Obama’s Ocean Policy Task Force has pushed along some states. Now they’re looking at CMSP/MSP and saying, “What does this mean

## The Basics about CSO

**CSO’S MISSION IS** to support the shared vision of the coastal states, commonwealths and territories for the protection, conservation, responsible use and sustainable economic development of the nation’s coastal, ocean and Great Lakes resources. The CSO’s strategic goals include the following:

1. **Governance & Management.** Re-evaluate the ocean and coastal management needs for this nation and seek to address them through the re-authorization of an improved and strengthened CZMA, and launch an effort to support new and existing ocean, Great Lakes, and local community management initiatives, including regional governance efforts.
2. **Funding & Economics.** Secure long-term fiscal support of the state and federal programs that restore, manage and protect the nation’s coastal, ocean and Great Lakes resources.
3. **Support the Decisions of Coastal & Ocean Resource Managers with the Best Science.** Use the best available science and assure that the public understands the basis of the management decisions. The federal agencies recognize that complex coastal and ocean issues can be managed most effectively and efficiently when supported by the best science and information, shared experiences and technical assistance.
4. **Science to Management.** Incorporate the needs and opportunities of state ocean and coastal management programs into the development and implementation of federal scientific research and monitoring programs to support coastal and ocean management.



and how are we going to manage the jurisdictional issues between federal waters and state waters? How far inland does CMSP/MSP go?" In some states, coastal management authority reaches inland, and in some states it ends closer to the coastline. So there are still some question marks in the states in terms of how is CMSP/MSP going to work when you start to combine federal and state waters.

**CURRENTS:** Why is it important to know how CMSP/MSP will work?

**FLETCHER:** How it plays out is such a key part of writing the policy. Right now, we can go into meetings here in Washington and say, "These are the priorities of the states." and "These are the things that the states have agreed on," or "These are things the states would not agree on." So we wouldn't include those items in the draft policy. Before we adopt a policy, we're trying to work through how CMSP/MSP would work at the state and regional levels. If the federal government is going to embrace CMSP/MSP in federal waters, that means everything from three out to 200 miles, what does that mean for the shoreline up to three miles out? And how do we make sure that the progress already made by many of our states—Rhode Island and Massachusetts in particular—doesn't get lost? We need to make sure those decisions continue to be made from the ground up.

One of the key parts of CMSP/MSP is the process. Bringing the stakeholders in and saying, "We have these 30 different uses for our coastal resources. How are we going to manage these resources in the future? And, by the way, there are going to be five more uses that we haven't even thought of that are going to be coming online in five to ten years." So I think it's that process of getting people to understand that resources are limited is key. They're going to have to compromise and trust that they're not going to lose access to those resources.

I think the attention that the recreational fishing industry has given to CMSP/MSP is a good example of why the process is so important. There has been a lot of misinformation about CMSP/MSP limiting the access of the recreational fishing industry—that anglers will not have access to waterways anymore, that there will be tons of no-take zones. If you look at the draft CMSP/MSP framework—it's nowhere to be found; rather, the framework addresses all uses. I think that highlights the idea that the process of stakeholder involvement, understanding, and developing trust in CMSP/MSP is key.

**CURRENTS:** Okay. So let's assume that the CZMA gets re-authorized with a very strong CMSP/MSP component. Your member states would want to make sure that their coastal management programs fit in appropriately within that federal program. Right?



**FLETCHER:** Yes. You know the other thing is the re-authorization for the CZMA—the one that we put together was really before CMSP/MSP hit the streets. You won't see it in our draft bill. If spatial planning is happening in the states, it's happening under the authority of the CZMA so there really is a unique tie-in to the CZMA. Though my sense is if CMSP does advance in federal legislation, CZMA will be a big piece of that framework.





Delegates assembled on the beach during the CSO 2009 annual meeting held in Charleston, SC. Kristen Fletcher is kneeling in the front row, second from the right.

**CURRENTS:** What's the argument against doing CMSP/MSP?

**FLETCHER:** Well, I think the argument is about how to do it, not whether to do it. When the idea of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) came out several years ago, they very quickly became a bad word. It is very similar to the reaction the recreational fishing industry had to CMSP/MSP. There were going to be no-take zones, the "feds" were going to come in and say what you couldn't do. Yet, for example, there were already protected areas in the Gulf of Mexico region. The states were very active in establishing protected areas especially Louisiana, even though they didn't call them MPAs.

CMSP/MSP, the planning process itself, is happening in some of the states and at the regional level but they're not necessarily calling it that. There is some fear about CMSP/MSP. It's a new phrase for a planning idea but users are fearful that someone is going to lose out. The renewable energy industry is an example. You see in a lot of their communications that they don't want to be penalized because they're a new industry. They have to go through a lot in order to gain access to the resource. From

their perspective, they go through more than industries that have been around much longer. There are more requirements and regulations than many years ago and they don't have the cemented relationships with state and federal agencies that the more established industries do.

You can identify some key elements of CMSP/MSP and different models of how it can move forward. But, the idea behind CMSP/MSP is that we need to be making some decisions and they need to be coordinated decisions. Not the sector-by-sector approach that we've taken in the past. So from that perspective, there's not an argument against it.

**CURRENTS:** The renewable energy groups are having trouble getting access to the coastal zones that they want?

**FLETCHER:** Yes. Initially, the industry was waiting for Congress to grant the federal authority needed to lease lands for renewable energy and for federal agencies to remedy confusion about jurisdiction; that has happened now.

The interesting thing about the President's framework is the interim framework. This lays out the guidelines for CMSP/MSP for the regions to assist in implementing



CMSP/MSP. The CZMA model is useful—it is a good mechanism that provides flexibility from state to state and region to region. What would work in the Gulf of Mexico may not work in New England. Our framework takes into consideration the culture, the political environment, the resources themselves, how different they are, the different industries and the different authorities.



The interim framework has laid out nine regions for CMSP/MSP. The Regional Ocean Partnerships cover six of those. So CEQ and the Ocean Policy Task Force worked with the Regional Ocean Partnerships to understand how they were set up. The interim framework is modeled after those six that are in the continental U.S. The other three regions are the Caribbean, the Pacific islands (including Hawaii), and Alaska. They have yet to establish regional ocean partnerships.

**CURRENTS:** Let's talk about some opportunities for collaborations among CSO member states and the Navy. Are there experiences you've had with the Navy either good or bad, or opportunities for collaboration that you could pinpoint?

**FLETCHER:** One of the most important mechanisms for coordination with the Navy is the state's authority to review the use of coastal ranges for Navy exercises under the CZMA.

Under the CZMA, a state creates a Coastal Zone Management Program. Once the state's program is approved by the Secretary of Commerce, the state receives federal grant money to implement the program and also receives "consistency review authority." If there is a federal action—

it could be an action by the Navy or something permitted by the Army Corps of Engineers—that might affect the coastal zone of that state, then the state reviews that proposed action for "consistency" with its coastal program.

There have been some discussions in California and Hawaii regarding some proposed Navy actions and consistency with those states' coastal programs. In California, I believe the Navy was able to go forward with its planned exercises.

Let the state know what you're doing so it can work with the Navy on issues that are key to the state's role as a sovereign and as a coastal resource manager.

**CURRENTS:** Correct. The Navy has several exercises planned for 2010.

**FLETCHER:** Right. The state of Hawaii sought to review Navy exercises under its consistency authority but the Navy claimed it was exempt from such a review. It's difficult for a state which has a responsibility to its citizens to protect and manage the coastal resources to not be able to undertake a consistency review. My primary contact in Hawaii during that time explained that "It's unfortunate because we have a really great working relationship with the Navy." Based on this and other experiences, one of the key pieces is early communication. It makes a difference to have open communication as a project is being developed. Let the state know what you're doing so it can work with the Navy on issues that are key to the state's role as a sovereign and as a coastal resource manager. Is there a different area where the training could be conducted that wouldn't have as great an impact on the coast? Is there a different time of year when the training might be conducted?

**CURRENTS:** Of course, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires us (and the states) to hold stakeholder hearings to collect comments from concerned parties. In these cases, it sounds like that compliance piece isn't enough.

**FLETCHER:** In many cases, we need to move beyond compliance. Early communication is one way to do that. Also, CSO posits that the states shouldn't be viewed as a

typical stakeholder. The states are sovereign entities—they have ownership and regulatory authority within three nautical miles of their coastlines and consistency review authority outside those three miles.

One solution may reside with federal-state environmental coordination groups which include people from a variety of state agencies, the federal government and the Navy. One of our delegates in Hawaii said that this coordination group is often where he gets much of his information early on in the process—it could be a useful way to identify and work through potential issues. A good question would be, “How can these coordination groups support your NEPA requirements?”

**CURRENTS:** So you would suggest that we examine the timeline of NEPA milestones and consider where stakeholders need to be more involved?

## “Partners for the Planet” Brings Key Stakeholders Together for Environmental Forum

THE CHIEF OF Naval Operations Environmental Readiness Division hosted “Partners for the Planet,” 31 March 2010 in Alexandria, VA. The event brought together the U.S. Navy, environmental NGOs, and other key stakeholders to discuss environmental topics of shared concern.

Short-term objectives of the forum were to increase NGO and other key stakeholder awareness of the Navy’s current and future environmental stewardship efforts, increase Navy leadership awareness of programs and initiatives led by the environmental community, and identify future partnering opportunities.

NGO participants included the Endangered Species Coalition, The Nature Conservancy, Oceana, and the Ocean Conservancy, among others. These organizations have had ongoing dialogues with the Navy on a number of environmental topics. Representatives from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Marine Mammal Commission also attended.

**FLETCHER:** Yes and because of the national security issue, it’s more complicated with the Department of Defense than it is with other federal agencies.

Another idea is the collaborative establishment of and Hawaii coastal zone program approval of a Navy and Marine Corps *de minimus* activities list. This list can be used by the Navy and Marine Corps to help them determine if their proposed actions will be consistent with the state’s coastal management program. This particular list in Hawaii has worked so well that it has generated interest by the U.S. Coast Guard and the Air Force to work with Hawaii’s coastal zone management team to develop a similar list.

**CURRENTS:** But they still had some issues with things that were not on that list?

**FLETCHER:** Yes, training exercises in particular. In California, one of the issues was working with the Navy to place beneficial dredge material in San Diego Bay to create suitable habitat. This material was going to be taken offshore and dumped into the deep ocean although it purportedly contained unexploded munitions. So the state of California worked with the Navy and found they were able to use the dredge material in San Diego Bay. This resulted in a beneficial reuse of the material, plus it retained the sand within the near-shore ecosystem, instead of placing it in the ocean, which would have had







no beneficial impacts. That is an example of a very successful collaboration where the Navy presented a plan, the state countered with an entirely different idea and both benefited from the ultimate solution.

Another successful collaboration between the Navy and the State of California involved water quality issues associated with the construction of a new pier at which nuclear aircraft carriers could be ported. The Navy was so pleased with the state's stormwater pollution prevention program that they applied it to subsequent pier rehabilitation projects elsewhere.

**CURRENTS:** Any other comments you'd like to make regarding collaborations between your member states and the Navy?

**FLETCHER:** Yes. You first asked me how we might better work together. Again, early communication is key. Working with existing groups to coordinate our activities is another. The regular dissemination of information by both groups is a third. But one question I have is, "Does the Navy need more follow-up from the states?" Information should be flowing in both directions. If one of our member states is making a significant change to its

coastal management program, how can we best provide that information to the Navy as one of the state's partners and stakeholders? If a particular state happens to be embracing CMSP/MSP, does the Navy know who to contact in the state organization for more insights? I know that in Rhode Island, the Navy is one of the stakeholders for the Ocean Special Area Management Plan and participates in the state's efforts toward CMSP/MSP.

**CURRENTS:** What other feedback could you give us from your member states about what the Navy could be doing better?

**FLETCHER:** We should talk a little bit about data sharing and coordination—gathering the information as well as using it. One example of good coordination is the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. This alliance has engaged folks from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to identify their program priorities. In turn, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and EPA have designed their funding programs around the Gulf's priorities. All of a sudden you have the federal funding (and request for

proposals (RFP) aligned with what the states collectively have said is important. In terms of the research RFPs, that could be a real opportunity for the states and the Navy to do some work on what is needed by the Navy and the states. There's got to be some overlap there. So the resultant research will benefit both organizations. There's an additional layer of what's classified and what the Navy needs to keep private. I think the researchers have understood and respected that for years. So there would be some hurdles. But we need to better coordinate from the outset.

**CURRENTS:** So align the Navy's research priorities with the states' priorities.

**FLETCHER:** Yes. And I think that works in both directions. The states can do a better job of understanding what the Navy needs. But most of the research funding comes from

the Navy. The states are going to be working on CMSP/MSP so we need to design that process so that we're meeting the needs of the Navy as well.

It might be useful for the Navy (along with NOAA and the U.S. Geological Survey) to sponsor a research study on the information needs associated with mapping of the coasts. The focus could be on climate change and sea level rise to provide it with some necessary context. We'd first need to determine specific needs for mapping then sponsor targeted research.

**CURRENTS:** Finally, I think our readers would be interested in what CSO is doing in the renewable energy arena.

**FLETCHER:** Some governors of our member states have come out very much in favor of renewable energy. The Northeast has formed a regional greenhouse gas initiative.

## The Basics About Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

**COASTAL AND MARINE** Spatial Planning, also known as Marine Spatial Planning, is a planning and decision-making process that brings together multiple users of the ocean, including business, industry, government and conservation. Essentially, CMSP is similar to land-use planning.

As more and more people compete for the same resources, the need for CMSP is growing. Many world governments and some U.S. states have adopted some form of CMSP. However, U.S. coastlines and the Great Lakes are still governed by more than 140 laws and 20 federal agencies; each with different goals and missions.

In December 2009, the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force released an interim framework for CMSP in the United States. Under this framework:

- CMSP would be regional in scope, instead of sector-by-sector or statute-by-statute;
- CMSP would be developed cooperatively among federal, state, tribal, local authorities and regional governance structures;
- All decisions would be science-based; and
- Stakeholder and public input would be ongoing.

The full report may be accessed at [www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/oceans/interim-framework](http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/oceans/interim-framework).

For more insights into CSO's perspective on CMSP, you can download their report "Priorities for a Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Framework" from [www.coastalstates.org](http://www.coastalstates.org).





At the highest levels of the states, there's a strong recognition that renewable energy is coming. In fact, Texas is promoting renewable energy in recognition that oil and gas are limited resources. What are they going to replace it with? Texas was the first state to offer state leases for offshore wind.

We've been representing the interests of the governors on the Hill. If you're considering renewable energy, we believe that some of the funds that you receive from sponsoring those types of projects (leasing fees, etc.) should be dedicated to the state's marine coastal management program. So let's link any renewable energy projects with the management of the coastal resources that those projects could potentially (adversely) impact.

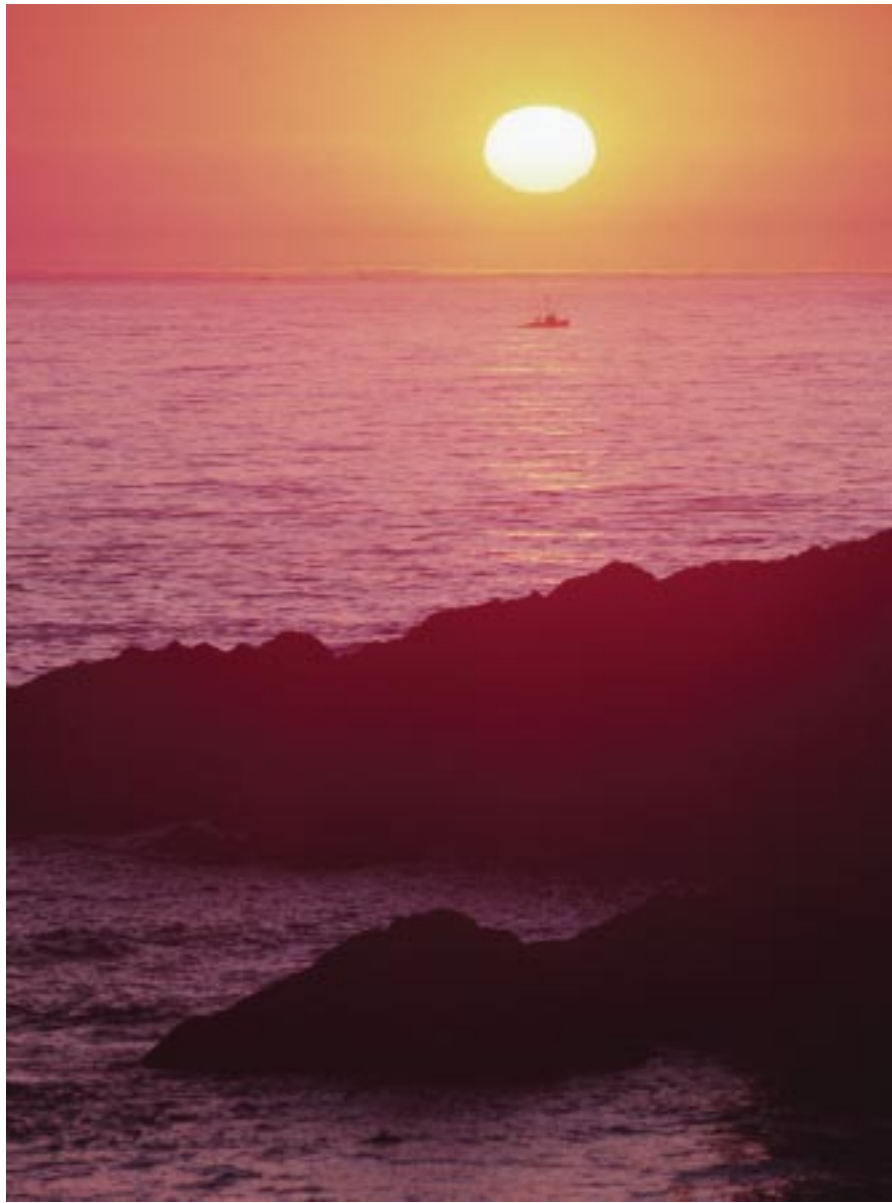
## Information should be flowing in both directions.

**CURRENTS:** So the funds that come from the private sector for the use of the coastal zone—wind or other renewable energy—a portion of those funds would go back to the states to help them manage the coastal zone?

**FLETCHER:** Right. Louisiana is a very good example of that. Studies indicate that oil and gas operations off of the Louisiana coast have contributed significantly to the erosion of their wetlands. So we need to be able to connect that use with reinvestment into the resource that's being impacted.

We also need to get the states the information they need to effectively manage renewable energy. Especially in some New England and Mid-Atlantic states—they're not just in the "idea" phase anymore. They're making agreements with renewable energy companies and making siting decisions. So we need to make sure that they have the information and the tools they need.

One of the workshops that we did last year was on adaptive management and renewable energy, bringing together states, federal agencies, NGOs and industry. Because this is a new industry, we don't know very much about the impacts. We need to create models of adaptive management for renewable energy in the coastal zone.



We had a state-to-state conversation at the CSO annual meeting in Charleston, SC in 2009 which provided the states with an opportunity to share information with one another about renewables. So a state like Texas, that has a real strength in leasing its land, could talk about how it's done it, the framework that it used and some of the challenges to avoid. A state like Ohio that has been doing mapping for a number of years can share its knowledge with other states.

**CURRENTS:** Thanks for your insights, Kristen.

**FLETCHER:** You're welcome. Thank you. 📌